

Accelerated procedure for hearings

Version: 2026 Umpired racing

This procedure applies only when racing is umpired and the notice of race or sailing instructions so state.

The document sets out provides a rapid standard procedure for the pre-hearing formalities that both integrates the essential features of IRSA System for reducing the number of Protest Hearings (SYRPH) and ensures full traceability from the delivery of the hearing request to any action required by the scorer.

When this procedure applies IRSA SYRPH shall not apply.

Sample SI: 13.1 Protests and requests for redress need not be in writing. The protest committee may take evidence in any way it considers appropriate and may communicate its decision orally.

This document sets out how the International Jury shall process protests and requests for redress. This procedure changes: RRS E5.1(c) and E6.4 by changing 'Race Committee' to 'Umpire'; RRS 60.3(a) in that hearing requests need not be in writing.

Procedure

1. After each heat, an umpire shall record hearing requests. This person shall be known as the Hearing Recorder. The Hearing Recorder will inform the Race Committee of any hearing requests.
2. At the first reasonable opportunity after finishing or retiring a competitor shall inform an umpire of his intention to protest or request redress. The competitor shall notify, orally, the umpire of his sail number, the boat being protested, the nature of the incident and, if possible, any witnesses. The umpire shall record these details. The competitor is not required to inform the Race Committee.
3. The umpire shall hail the sail number of the boat(s) involved and inform them of the hearing request. All parties shall report promptly to the Hearing Recorder.
4. The Hearing Recorder shall be informed at the first reasonable opportunity by:
 - Umpires: of protests and requests for redress notified by competitors;
 - Observers: of reports of unresolved incidents. Observers are not required to make a report to the Race Committee;
 - Umpires or race committee: of their intention to protestThe Hearing Recorder shall promptly inform the Race Committee of any hearing request.
5. The Hearing Recorder shall ensure that the following information is recorded in writing:
 - The initiator and the respondent;
 - Any observer or umpire who witnessed the incident
 - A brief description of the incident, including where and when it occurred and if it is alleged that a boat was damaged
 - The identity of any witnessesThis changes RRS 60.3 Delivering a Protest and RRS 61.2 Request for Redress.
6. The Hearing Recorder shall:
 - Inform the parties by hailing that a hearing is to be held
 - When the parties are present inform them of the nature of the incident
 - Invite any umpire or observer to give a brief report of the incident
7. Each party shall then indicate, simultaneously, that they wish to retire or proceed to a hearing. The initiator may ask to withdraw the hearing request
8. If the hearing request is not withdrawn, the hearing may be held immediately.
9. After having informed the parties of their decision, the protest committee shall also notify the Hearing Recorder.
10. The Hearing Recorder shall communicate, as soon as possible, any necessary scoring information to the Scorer and inform all other competitors of the outcome of the hearing by posting a notice on the Official Notice Board.